

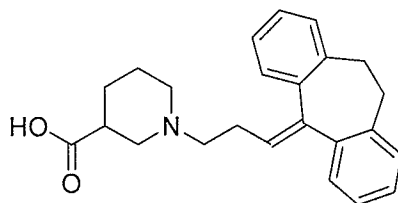
Remarks

Upon entry of this response, claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are amended to correct typographical errors including changing the superscript to subscript for "R₁" and "R₂". New claim 26 is added. Support for claim 26 can be found at least at page 27, lines 5-6 of the as-filed application.

Response to Election/Restriction

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, claims 11-25, drawn to a method of using structural formula IVa, IVb, Va, Vb or compound 1.

With respect to the species election, Applicants elect compound 1 (and its individual enantiomers) as the species for examination. The structure of compound 1 can be found in original claim 23 and in the specification at page 26, lines 12-14.



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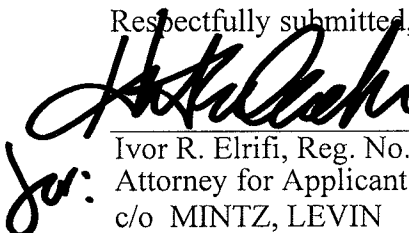
Claims 11-15 encompass compound 1 for a compound of formula IVa wherein r is 2, q is 0, R₁ and R₂ are -H, and T is COOH. Claims 16-22 encompass compound 1 for a compound of formula Va wherein R₁ and R₂ are -H, and U is COOH. Claims 23-26 directly encompass compound 1 (and its individual enantiomers).

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the manner of the restriction. Applicants submit that the compounds of formula IVa, IVb, Va, Vb and compound 1 in the elected Group II are also within the scope of the compounds of formula II, IIIa or IIIb in Group I. Specifically, claims 1-5 encompass compound 1 where a compound of formula II has the following definitions: R₁ and R₂ are -H; r is 2; m is 2; t is 1; R₀ is -(CH₂)_q COR^p; q is 0; R^p is OH; and the R₀ moiety is at the 3-position of the resulting piperidine ring. Claims 6-10 encompass compound 1 where a compound of formula IIIa has the following definitions: r is 2; m is 2; q is 0; R₁ and R₂ are -H; R_x and R_y are -H; and T is COOH. Accordingly, reconsideration of the manner of the restriction is requested.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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